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United States Uses International Wildlife Fund to Help
Save Some of the World's Most Treasured Species

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has announced that it will be awarding more than \$5 million in 132 grants, to wildlife conservationists across the globe, in order to help save highly imperiled wildlife species. Specifically, the grants support conservation efforts for African elephants, Asian elephants, great apes (including gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, orangutans, and gibbons), rhinoceroses, and tigers. The U.S. contribution toward these efforts has leveraged over twice the initial investment, resulting in a total of almost \$16 million in conservation funds committed to helping these highly endangered creatures.

The grants are awarded through the Service's *Wildlife Without Borders*-Species Programs, using funds designated by the U.S. Congress to conserve international endangered species that are highly cherished by the American people.

"The United States is making a real difference in the conservation of these important species." Said Dr. Herbert Raffaele, USFWS Division of International Conservation Chief. "The assistance provided by these funds goes a long way toward helping these species on-the-ground, as well as leveraging monies from local stake-holders and other supporters of wildlife conservation internationally."

All of the targeted species are imperiled by a variety of threats, including loss of habitat, poaching, the Asian medicinal trade and/or bushmeat, conflict with humans, and disease.

Some of the conservation initiatives sponsored by the Service this year include: Supporting a regional workshop to produce a national strategy for conservation of elephants in Benin; Constructing a rhino proof fence to help protect an important population of eastern black rhinoceroses from poachers in northern Kenya; Managing a network of ex-hunters and district police officers to monitor wildlife and manage threats to wildlife and wildlife habitat for Asian elephants in the forests of Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia; Providing support for a Siberian tiger conservation education program for people living near the Lazovsky State Nature Reserve, Russia; and Restoring orangutan and gibbon habitat in Tanjung Puting National Park, Indonesia.

"These grant programs not only work to directly conserve imperiled species, but they also build local capacity and educate communities so that the conservation efforts will continue into the future." said Fred Bagley, Program Officer for the Rhino-Tiger Conservation Fund.

Please see below for sample grants.

For more information, or a full list of 2004 grants, please visit: <http://international.fws.gov>.

Sample 2004 *Wildlife Without Borders*-Species Conservation Projects

“Preventative Approaches to a Poaching Crisis in Zambia” continues assistance to elephant protection by providing alternatives to killing elephants and other wildlife as a source of food and income. This program transforms hunters into agriculturalists in a system of low-impact, sustainable farming and product marketing in Zambia. In partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society. USFWS \$40,000; Leveraged funds \$50,900.

“The Mali Elephants Project” provides assistance to a project aimed at conserving a relict population of desert elephants in northern Mali. This project builds on previous work supported by the AfEFCF and intends to create the local capacity to protect the Gourma elephants by working with local residents, the Malian Ministry of the Environment and Save the Elephants. In partnership with The WILD Foundation. USFWS \$52,088; Leveraged funds \$130,061.

“A Study of Man-Elephant Conflict in Rajiv Gandhi National Park and Surrounding Areas of Kodagu District in Karnataka State, India” improves the ability of the Karnataka Forest Department and local people to manage human-elephant conflict in the vicinity of the Rajiv Gandhi National Park. In partnership with Envirosearch. USFWS: \$5,000; Leveraged funds \$15,840.

“Equipping Protected Area Field Staff Within Elephant Bearing Areas in India with Anti-poaching Kits” equips some 500 State Government park rangers and foresters with basic anti-poaching kits and specialized in-service training to enhance their ability to stop elephant poaching and related wildlife crimes in the Government of India’s Project Elephant Reserves. In partnership with Wildlife Trust of India. USFWS: \$32,138; Leveraged funds \$171,107.

“Rhino Proof Electric Fence Ol Ari Nyiro Sanctuary, Northern Kenya” constructs a 50 square kilometer electrified rhino proof fence to help protect and conserve an important population of the eastern black rhinoceros in northern Kenya. In partnership with Gallman Memorial Foundation. USFWS \$35,121; Leveraged funds \$42,637.

“Monitoring Tigers and Their Prey Species in Kerinci Seblat National Park, Indonesia” provides park management with reliable information on population trends of tigers and their principal prey through the implementation of a monitoring program. In partnership with University of Kent. USFWS \$29,919; Leveraged funds \$36,252.

“Reforestation as Part of a Holistic Orangutan Protection Program at Tanjung Putting National Park, Central Kalimantan” builds upon a successful reforestation project commenced under a previous Service grant, expanding the already reforested area, and monitoring and protecting nearly 50 hectares of important orangutan and gibbon habitat. In partnership with Yayasan Pecinta Taman Nasional. USFWS \$21,830; Leveraged funds \$3,550.

“Bonobo Survey and Information Exchange” supports the establishment of a new community-based reserve for bonobos, and continues survey and monitoring of bonobos at Kokolopori, DRC. In partnership with Bonobo Conservation Initiative. USFWS \$45,617; Leveraged funds \$173,483.